

INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES UNDER SWEEPING STUDY

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 8—A study of the world-wide activities of United States intelligence agencies has been undertaken by a special task force named by President Lyndon B. Johnson to bring about greater efficiency and co-ordination.

The group is composed of Frederick E. Nolting Jr., a foreign service officer and former ambassador to South Viet Nam; Maj. Gen. John M. Reynolds of the Air Force, who has served since 1961 as vice director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and John A. Bross, deputy to the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in charge of national intelligence programs evaluation.

The task force is functioning as a part of the immediate staff of John A. McCone who, in his capacity of director of central intelligence, is responsible for co-ordinating the work of the United States intelligence community as a whole.

The intelligence community is made up of the three main intelligence components of the United States Government: the Central Intelligence Agency, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State, and the Defense Intelligence Agency plus the intelligence sections of each of the three military services.

Delegated Responsibility

McCone holds the post of director of the CIA but the law as well as specific directives of the National Security Council and the President have given him the simultaneous functions of director of the intelligence community.

His responsibility is to co-ordinate the activities of all the elements in the intelligence community.

The current study has thus been ordered to provide the President and McCone with specific recommendations as to how the work of all the intelligence agencies can be meshed for greater efficiency, a more complete world-wide coverage and a minimum of waste and duplication.

On the task force, Ambassador Nolting is representing the Department of State, Gen. Reynolds the Department of Defense and Bross the CIA.

The group expects to come up with its recommendations within four or five months, and it is not intended as a permanent body.

After Bay of Pigs

The over-all effort and quality of United States intelligence is under continuous review by the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, which was established by President John F. Kennedy in May 1961, after the failure of the rebel invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. The board is now headed by Clark M. Clifford who last year succeeded James R. Killian Jr. as the chairman.

The new task force was originally ordered by President Kennedy shortly before his death, but its members were named by Mr. Johnson last month.

Although in theory the CIA, the military intelligence and the Department of State intelligence pursue separate objectives and concentrate on their special interests, a considerable amount of overlapping and duplication in field assignments is inevitable. Much of it, it is felt here, can be eliminated.

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